

# Brownsville Star Pitcher Goes to San Francisco Instead of Coming Here

Here Are the College Graduates in the American League Who Would Make Up a Strong Team If Played Together Anywhere



## NATIONALS LOSE TWIRLER TAYLOR

San Francisco Club Beats Griffith to It for Services of Promising Young Southpaw—Kahoe to Be Chief of Large Corps of Scouts.

By SENATOR.

Young Taylor, the much touted Texas twirler, will not be a member of the Washington ball club the coming season, according to notice received here today.

When Griffith wired an offer on Saturday it was believed that the Brownsville club would not hesitate to accept, as the terms were said to be satisfactory. Today the manager here received word from the president of the Southern Texas League saying that San Francisco had beaten the Nationals to it for Taylor's services, and a deal had been closed transferring the pitcher to the California team.

"The recommendation was so strong that I wanted Taylor and lost no time in making the proposition, but San Francisco was there first, and we lost. I will watch Taylor's work, and if he comes up to expectations later I may have in an offer," is the way Griffith discussed the matter.

No more contracts reached headquarters today, but the manager dictated a couple of letters which he expects will bring around the players who are not quite satisfied with their offers.

### Collecting a Staff.

While major league managers make it a rule to seldom announce names of men throughout the country who are on the lookout for young material, Clark Griffith is speedily establishing the best scouting corps that has ever worked for a Washington club.

During the comparatively short time he has been here the manager has

written to almost half a hundred judges of ball players with instructions to send information on any likely players that might come under their observation. Mike Kahoe continues as chief of all the scouts, and he will be called upon to do most of the work in finally passing judgment before deals are closed. In about a month Kahoe will start a tour of the major league training camps, looking over the surplus material of the other clubs, and will keep sending information to Griffith as to what players to watch on and on which ones to put in claims for services.

### He'll Be Missing.

This means he will be missing during most of the time the Nationals are at Charlottesville, but the manager thinks the scout's time will be well spent, having been convinced that there is many a promising player sent back to the minors in a perfunctory way when he might be of service to clubs in greater need of young talent.

The two major leagues and the International League will take a wealth of talent into the Southland, and Mike Kahoe will be kept busy jumping from one training camp to another forming opinions on the relative value of the players who are getting their first opportunity to show their class in the fastest of company.

"I am sorry to hear of the fate of poor Ed Ashenbach," Griffith said today, in discussing the case of the former manager who has been confined to a Cincinnati hospital suffering from hallucinations. "He is one of the most experienced managers in the business, and is known personally by thousands of players, all of whom are hoping for a speedy recovery from the disease which has affected his mind."

He went to New York for the league meeting, and had expected to return at once, but he became ill and went to his home in Bridgeport. At the Vendome Hotel, where McKinnon makes his headquarters in Washington, it was said today that he would probably be back by the middle of the week.

### Take Good Players.

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### Flynn-Johnson Bout May Be Held in New Mexico

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Jan. 28.—Jack Curley, manager for Jim Flynn, is here today to hold a conference with local men interested with him in promoting the Johnson-Flynn battle. Curley asserted no site for the fight had been selected, but one probably would be within a short time. He said he would take the fight to New Mexico if he encountered trouble in Nevada.

## WAGNER IS ANXIOUS TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH PIRATE TEAM

For Once Big German Won't Announce His Retirement.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 28.—The annual story about the retirement of Honus Wagner, shortstop extraordinary and ballplayer-a-plenty, after making the rounds for a matter of years, will not be printed this year. The German isn't going to retire; he isn't even going to hesitate over the signing of his contract; he isn't going to train in his automobile over the roads leading from and to Carnegie. He is ready to sign now, and is anxious for getway day to arrive. He surprised everybody at Pirate headquarters by calling and making inquiries as to what was doing. When asked if he was going to play this season, he replied emphatically he was, and what was more he was going to play a better game than ever before.

This man with the habit of leading the National League batters, is anxious to surpass the record made by Cap Anson of batting .300 or better for fifteen consecutive years. He has equaled that, and now says he is going to eclipse it. Wagner took occasion to speak eulogically of Billy Kelly, Marty O'Toole's side kick, predicting Kelly will be one of the sensations in the major leagues this year.

## Players Often Suffer From Drafting Rules

Occasionally there arises in baseball a case where the rules for drafting, selling and returning ball players to a club from the minors results in an injustice to the athlete. Such cases are so rare that their infrequency makes them conspicuous.

Dei Drake, Detroit outfielder, has been sent to Providence by Magnate Frank Navin. Several years ago the Tigers acquired the title to Drake. At that time they owned Davy Jones, McIntyre, Cobb and Crawford, all outfielders of excellence. There was no place for Drake, so he was taken South each spring and relegated to the minors again when the championship season commenced.

Of course, other clubs in the league had to waive on his services, but this was a mere formality. Each club had so many surplus men that if any one owner commenced holding up some body else's players he soon found himself tied up with more talent than he could afford to pay. De Drake was sent back each year.

Last season Drake got his chance when Davy Jones slipped. He hit .273 in ninety-five games and stole twenty bases. But he was around thirty years of age, and his hair had commenced turning gray. His arm no longer possessed the strength of a half dozen years ago, and he went back to the minors, landing with Providence this time.

Had he been fortunate enough to have joined a club needing outfielders when he first came into the league, it is likely that Drake would have had an honorable career in the majors. As it is, he was shipped back and forth during the period of his greatest usefulness. His case is one of the rare instances where the rules of organized baseball prevent a player advancing in his profession as provided in the opening paragraphs of the national agreement.

## EBBETT'S NEW PARK WILL BE LUXURIOUS AS ANY BIG HOTEL

Brooklyn Magnate Plans Wonderful Departure for Baseball.

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—Potted palms, wicker rockers, Persian rugs and a lobby, fashioned after those of the big hotels, will be features of Charlie Ebbett's new baseball park in Brooklyn, according to an announcement today. Unformed pages will be on the job to tell the chauffeur whenever a spectator wants a car.

## National League Lucky In Getting Receivers

The National League appears to be fortunate in the matter of securing good receivers. McGraw with Meyers, Wilson, Hartley, Paulette and a couple of recruits, while Wolverton is scouting around vigorously looking for a catcher who can be relied upon to relieve Sweeney.

There are many fine backstops in either league, and yet taken collectively, Meyers, Archer, Brenahan, Kling, Doolin, Wilson, Simon, and McLean would probably have a shade on Thomas, Stange, Street, Lapp, Sullivan, Sweeney, Corrigan, and Fisher.

The National League is also fortunate in the matter of first basemen. Even with Chase, McInnis, Stahl, and Gainer to head it, the American League can show no such list as Chance, Dauter, Konetchy, Hoblitzel, Merkle, and Luderus.

At second, Doyle, Evers, Knabe, Zimmerman and Higgins are no greater collection than Lajoie, Collins, Delehanty, Gardner, and Ball; while at third, Baker, Egan, Hartzell, and Morfitt would certainly concede nothing to Lobert, Herzog, Bryne, Mowrey, and Grant.

Both leagues are strong at short, Wagner, Tinker, Doolan, Fletcher, Barry, Bush, McBride and Wallace are all of stellar magnitude.

When it comes to the outfield, however, the National League can show no such galaxy as Cobb, Jackson, Cree, Speaker, Miller, Murphy, Crawford, Callahan, and Rodie.

## Nationals' Rookie Has Claims As Boxer As Well As Diamond Star

In Jimmy Duffy, the Lockport, N. Y., amateur third baseman, who will go to Charlottesville with the Nationals, Clark Griffith will have the lightweight champion boxer of Lockport, no mean honor. Duffy is also fortified in case he fails to show class here. He already has a place clinched with the Brantford team, of the Canadian League. He is credited with being the best third baseman in New York State, this leaving out certain chaps known as "Buck" Herzog, Roy Hartzell, Eddie Lennox, etc.

## COULD RECRUIT GOOD TEAM FROM COLLEGIAN PLAYERS

Many University Graduates Have Become Professional Players.

By "SENATOR."

While the impression is broadcast that the greatest players in baseball are graduates of the sandlots, it would be possible to gather together a band of former collegians capable of giving the best of the others a real battle in the national sport.

In the old days practically all of the stars were recruited from among the men who played after working hours, but conditions have changed to such extent that graduates of universities have forced many a one of their less learned brethren off the rolls and are now making great records on the diamond.

The greatest ball club in the world today is Philadelphia, in the American League, and the greatest men in this collection of champions are former collegians.

### All College Men.

Collins, Barry, Davis, Bender, Coombs, Plank and others of the tribe of Mack went from college nines into the professional field and practically all of the other teams to the league have quite a few university men on their rosters. Washington having an especially small representation with Doc Gessler, John Henry, and Carl Cashlon.

There are so many good men avail-

All-Star Collegians And Alma Maters in Ban Johnson's League

Bender	.....	Carlisle
Coombs	.....	Colby
Plank	.....	Gettysburg
Carrigan	.....	Holy Cross
Chase	.....	Santa Clara
Collins	.....	Columbia
Barry	.....	Holy Cross
Lord	.....	Bates
Cree	.....	Penn State
White	.....	Georgetown
Birmingham	.....	Cornell

able that it would be a difficult task to pick the best team in the American League, but the accompanying names give an indication of the real strength obtainable from the lists of those who hold degrees.

While hardly the best in the business, Bill Carrigan, of the Boston Red Sox, would make a good man for catcher. Long before American League fans heard of this player, he was making a great name for himself at Holy Cross, an institution that also offers Jack Barry, the Athletic shortstop, to this hypothetical team.

### Chase At First.

At first base there is Hal Chase, who ranks among the very best men who ever played that position in the whole history of the game. Chase hails from

Collins, Coombs, Barry, Davis, and Bender From College Nines.

Santa Clara College, and had not reached his majority when he was grabbed by Clark Griffith, who was then manager of the New York Yankees.

The best second baseman in the business today is Eddie Collins, of the Athletics. For three years the work of this young man on the Columbia infield was the sensation of the intercollegiate world. Had it not been for the fact that he professionalized himself during the summer before graduation, he would have played four years on his college nine. As it was, he was barred, but acted as coach until after graduation.

Lord From Bates.

Harry Lord, the Chicago third baseman, could fill in nicely on the all-college team, his diploma from Bates making him eligible for consideration.

In the outfield "Birdie" Cree, of New York; Joe Birmingham, of Cleveland; and Harry White, of Chicago, would make a formidable trio. Cree hails from Penn State College, where he was a good all-around athlete. Birmingham played football and baseball at Cornell, at White was a Georgetown degree. While essentially a pitcher, White has played the outfield for the White Sox, his heavy hitting making him a valuable man to have in the outer gardens.

For pitchers there would be Bender, Coombs, and Plank. These three Philadelphiaans were fetched directly from the college ranks by Connie Mack, Bender, from Carlisle; Coombs, from Colby, and Plank from Gettysburg.

Harry Davis, the Cleveland leader, would be the logical man as manager of this outfit. Davis is a graduate of Harvard College, in Philadelphia, having won his degree that time before getting into faster company.

## Baseball News From Everywhere

Four major league clubs will play in Dayton during the exhibition season, namely: Cleveland, Brooklyn, Red Sox, and Highlanders.

Billie Hart, of Cincinnati, an umpire in the Southern League, holds the distinction of pitching more seasons than any other man—just twenty-six. He started in Chattanooga in 1895 and ended it in the same city in 1910.

The shortest game of the major leagues last season, in point of time, was between the Athletics and Washington, at Florida avenue, which consumed 1 hour and 10 minutes. It went nine innings, and was the last game between them for that year.

From 1907 until 1911 Mike Mitchell held the fang-hitting high mark of 431 left 8 1/2 inches. It was Leaton on September 30, 1911, by Pitcher Walsh, of the White Sox, who slammed the pill just 4 1/2 feet and 1/2 inch.

During the season of 1911 the Austin club, of the Texas League, won twenty-two straight victories. When the streak started Austin was in fourth place. When it ended it had room to spare in its league leadership.

In the Washington-Boston game on April 15, 1911, Pitcher Walter Johnson made an actual record of four strikeouts in one inning. He had struck out Collins and Gardner and had three strikes on Hooper, but Ansonin dropped the ball and Hooper got to first safely. Speaker batted Hooper home, and then Johnson fanned 11, his fourth strike-out victim in that inning.

With a batting average of .248 and a fielding figure of .946 "Birdie" Cree, of the Yankees, made the left fielders in the American League.

Pitcher "Lefty" Russell will be given another chance by Connie Mack to deliver a little something for the 12,000 bucks he cost the Athletics.

It is said Johnny Evers, of the Cubs, is spending the off season in Troy, hearing a few songs he will sing next season for the benefit of Hank O'Day.

Umpire Frank Fry, who was compelled to quit the National League last summer by an attack of blood poisoning, has signed with the Union Association.

Two new International League managers, Frank R. Van Dusen, of Providence, and Hugh McGree, of Jersey

City, will attend the International League schedule meeting at Providence.

Mike Doolan, of the Quakers, is no longer a minor league magnate. Mike paid last money for a minor league outfit last season, and what the team did to Mike's bankroll is unprintable.

The Harvard University baseball team will start their Southern trip on April 12. The Crimson nine will play games with Johns Hopkins, the Catholic University, Georgetown, and Annapolis.

The Athletics vs. Quakers, at Philadelphia; Cardinals vs. Browns, at St. Louis; Giants vs. Senators, at Washington; and Boston Red Sox vs. Reds, at Cincinnati, comprise the interleague spring series so far scheduled.

"Billy" Earle, the veteran player, manager, and umpire, has been signed as coach for the Louisville team. "Billy" will instruct the youngsters during practice and pull the Arlie Latham stuff on the side lines.

The new baseball plant of the Detroit club will accommodate 30,000 people. Cleveland fans say the difference between the number the Tigers can accommodate and the number they will play to is something like 27,000. Mean old things, those Cleveland bugs.

President Lynch, of the National League, has completed his corps of umpires for the coming season. The staff will be composed of Johnstone, Owens, Klem, Rigler, Emalle, Eason, Brennan, Finnegan, and Bush. For the American League President Johnson has signed Dineen, Connolly, O'Loughlin, Evans, Farrine, Egan, Westervelt, and Hart.

The dumping of Fred Tenny, last season's manager of the Boston National League team, makes the fourth manager of that club shelved while under contract. Joe Kelley, Frank Bowdman, and Fred Lajoie had to quit, though they collected for their unexpected terms as leaders of the tallenders.

John Hummel and Billy Beigen are the only men of the old guard left with the Brooklyn National League team. There are strong signs, too, that Hummel will be left alone, for Beigen seems slated for the minors, being unable to keep in good playing condition.

Cecil Ferguson, while with the New York and Boston National League teams, earned a reputation for being the wildest pitcher in the major circuits, will twirl for Memphis in 1912.

## Couldn't Catch Behind Left-Handed Batsman

MacLean Kennedy, who grabs interesting figures and reading out of baseball records, says the funniest thing he ever witnessed is the bush leagues happened in Clinton, Mich.

A young fellow came into town and claimed to be a catcher. He wanted a job on the team. They asked him to practice to show what he could do.

The youngster got behind the plate. A left-handed batter was up. The pitcher threw six balls to the batter and the catcher missed all of them. As the ball rolled away for the sixth time, he took off his mask, and, addressing the pitcher, said:

"Say, have a right-handed batter come up. I can't catch behind a left-handed batter."

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## It's Always the Same

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## Tomorrow's Sports

Ingram at Carroll Institute, basketball.

Champion skating races between Morris Wood and Edmund Lamy, at Saranac Lake, N. Y.

Annual meeting of New York State Baseball League at Troy.

Opening of annual Northwestern automobile show at Grand Forks, N. D.

Eddie McGeorty vs. Walter Coffey, ten rounds, at New York.

Tom Maloney vs. Frankie Madole, ten rounds, at Albany, N. Y.

Frankie Burns vs. Jimmy Walsh, twelve rounds, at New Haven, Conn.

Blunk McCloskey vs. Dixie Kid, twenty rounds, at London, England.

Tommy Dixon vs. Ollie Kirk, six rounds, at St. Louis, Mo.

Jack Redmond vs. Sammy Trott, eight rounds, at Columbus, Ohio.

Frank Klaus vs. George Knockout Brown, six rounds, at Pittsburgh, Pa.